# FIRE AND ICE

# TEGRA

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DYNAMITE

BILL WILLINGHAM

GABRIELE DI CARO

PONOSIAN

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DYNAMITE®

BILL WILLINGHAM

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# FIRE AND ICE

# TEEGRA

## EVERYBODY LOVES TEEGRA


STORY BY
**BILL WILLINGHAM**

LETTERS BY
**TAYLOR ESPOSITO**

ART & COLORS BY
**GABRIELE DI CARO**

EDITED BY
**MATT IDELSON**



SPECIAL THANKS TO
**SARA FRAZETTA & JOE WEBER**


## THE STORY SO FAR

The war between the ice realm and the fire realm continues. Prince Taro of the Fire Realm, leading his elite dragonhawk riders has made great strides against the invading hordes from the north. Esprit de Corps among the united kingdoms of the south is high.

For details on the war, check out the "Fire and Ice" film.


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OH NO.

# FIRE AND ICE

EVERYBODY LOVES

# TEEGRA

WE'RE IN TROUBLE NOW, SHAITAN.

HOW DID I GET US INTO THIS MESS?

# CHAPTER ONE: IN WHICH TEEGRA TAKES HER LEAVE

BILL WILLINGHAM
GABRIELE DI CARO
TAYLOR ESPOSITO
MATT IDELSON
SPECIAL THANKS TO
SARA FRAZETTA AND
JOE WEBER

YES, HOW INDEED?

FIREKEEP, SEVEN DAYS AGO...

THERE YOU ARE, TEEGRA.

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN HIDING?

COME OVER HERE, HONORED DAUGHTER.

THERE ARE THINGS WE NEED TO DISCUSS.

WHAT IS IT, FATHER?

YOU LOOK TROUBLED.

THE WAR WITH THE ICE REALM ISN'T GOING WELL.

NO? I THOUGHT TARO HAD THEM ON THE RUN.

HE DID. FOR A BRIEF WHILE. YOUR BROTHER'S A MOST CAPABLE WAR LEADER.

BUT RECENTLY THEY'VE RALLIED.

NOW I MUST TURN TO YOU FOR HELP.

OF COURSE, FATHER. I'LL HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN.

GOOD. IT GLADDENS ME TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT--

--EVEN AS IT SADDENS ME TO PUT THIS BURDEN ON YOU.

BURDEN? WHAT--?

SOMETIME WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING, MY SWEET LITTLE GIRL GREW INTO A WOMAN.

MANY OF OUR ALLIES HAVE NOTICED IT.

SOME HAVE SENT ENVOYS. MADE INQUIRIES.

A STRATEGIC MARRIAGE TO SOMEONE IN A MIGHTY HOUSE COULD BE JUST WHAT WE NEED TO SHORE UP A FALTERING ALLIANCE.

WAIT--

WHAT--?

MARRIAGE?

MEANWHILE...

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

WHAT IF TEEGRA SHOULD WALK IN AND CATCH US?

SO WHAT?

MY SISTER DOESN'T OWN YOU.

YOU'RE HER TUTOR, YES, BUT ALSO HER FRIEND.

BUT OF TOO LOW A STATION TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE FAMOUS PRINCE TARO.

HERO OF THE REALM.

HEIR TO THE BRIMSTONE THRONE.

NONSENSE.

TIMES CHANGE. CUSTOMS MAY SEEM FIXED, BUT IN TRUTH ARE EVER IN FLUX.

WHEN THIS WAR ENDS AND EVERYONE SEES I'M THE ONE WHO WON IT, NO ONE WILL EVEN BAT AN EYE WHEN I OPENLY CLAIM YOU AS MY ONE TRUE LOVE.

BELIEVE ME, LIENE, THE MOMENT IS COMING.

HURRY THE DAY!

MARRIAGE?

CAN HE BE SERIOUS?

HUH--?!

TEEGRA!

DON'T LOOK SO STARTLED, YOU TWO.

WHO ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT TO ENTER HER OWN BEDROOM?

TARO, I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE.

I'M NOT--

I WASN'T--

I MEAN TO SAY, WHY AREN'T YOU SURPRISED TO SEE ME, SISTER?

OF COURSE FATHER WOULD'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU HIS PLANS.

TYPICAL I'D BE THE LAST TO FIND OUT.

IF YOU'VE COME HERE TO BREAK THE BAD NEWS MORE GENTLY, IT'S TOO LATE.

HE JUST TOLD ME EVERYTHING.

EXCUSE ME, BROTHER, I APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE, TO TRY TO EASE MY PAIN, BUT IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO.

BUT-- ?

LIENE AND I NEED TO TALK ALONE. WOMEN'S BUSINESS.

BY THE CURSED AND CELEBRATED GODS OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS!

THE NERVE OF THOSE TWO, PLANNING MY LIFE FOR ME!

TARO DIDN'T BOTHER YOU, DID HE?

WHILE WAITING HERE FOR ME?

UH... NO...HE--

I KNOW HE CAN BE A PEST SOMETIMES.

THINKS HE'S THE GODS' GIFT TO EVERY PRETTY GIRL IN THE PALACE.

BUT DON'T WORRY. HE'S A KITTEN. HARMLESS.

WE HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY NOW, SO HELP ME PACK AS WE TALK.

PACK?

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

IF THEY THINK I'M GOING TO MEEKLY STAY HERE AND BE AUCTIONED OFF LIKE A PRIZE LAMB FOR THE FEAST, THEY DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL.

I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO COME WITH ME, LIENE, AND I LOVE YOU FOR IT, BUT YOU CAN'T.

MY MOTHER TRAINED ME WELL TO SURVIVE IN THE WILD WORLD, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS.

TEEGRA, THINK THIS THROUGH.

YOU CAN'T JUST RUN OFF ON YOUR OWN!

AND I HAVE SHAITAN TO LOOK AFTER ME, SO DON'T YOU WORRY.

"I'LL BE FINE."

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

SHE'S GONE?

GONE WHERE?

I DON'T KNOW, SIRE.

SHE REFUSED TO TELL ME SO I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL YOU.

THAT FOOLHARDY GIRL!

IF HER MOTHER WERE HERE RIGHT NOW--

WELL, SHE'D SMILE AT A CERTAIN INHERITED STUBBORNESS.

TARO, SUMMON YOUR DRAGONHAWK RIDERS.

SCOUR THE PLAINS IN EVERY DIRECTION.

AND SEND WORD TO ALL LANDS. ALL KINGDOMS. EVEN DOWN TO THE LOWLIEST TRIBE.

WHOSOEVER RETURNS MY DAUGHTER SAFE TO ME WILL BE RICHLY REWARDED.

"BUT WOE BETIDE ANYONE WHO CAUSES HER HARM."

I PACKED TOO MUCH.

I CAN ALMOST HEAR MOTHER SCOLDING ME.

BUT WHO KNEW HOW LONG I'D BE AWAY?

OR IF I'D EVER BE ABLE TO COME HOME AT AL--

HUH?

HEY!

SHAITAN, HELP!

HELP ME SAVE MY STUFF!

PULL!

PULL!

THAT NIGHT...

WELL... THAT DIDN'T TURN OUT LIKE I IMAGINED.

ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW.

COME ON, SHAITAN.

LET'S GO HOME.

I'VE MADE MY POINT AND FATHER WILL UNDERSTAND.

WH--?

THAT'S ODD.

WHAT COULD THAT BE?

WHOA!

WWWAARRRRROOOWWW

AND THAT, TO ANSWER HER EARLIER QUESTION, IS HOW TEEGRA GOT THEM INTO THAT MESS.

# CHAPTER TWO: IN WHICH THE WORD HAS GONE OUT, AND SOME OF WHAT HAPPENED AS A RESULT.

THE THRILLING SAGA OF PRINCE REYO OF THE OCARTU PEOPLE.

THIS ARRIVED BY MESSENGER HAWK TODAY, O PRINCE OF PRINCES.

THE DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF FIREKEEP?

THAT IS INTERESTING.

TELL ME, DHON, IS SHE PRETTY?

I AM TOLD SO, SIRE.

VERY MUCH SO.

GOOD. WOULDN'T MATTER IF SHE WERE DONKEY-FACED, BUT GOOD.

I WILL RESCUE HER AND WED HER.

FOR A TIME AT LEAST, SHE'LL BE THE MOST TREASURED AND PAMPERED OF MY WIVES AND GIVE ME MANY SONS.

AND AN ALLIANCE WITH FIREKEEP SHOULD PROVE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS, *NEH?*

THEIR WARRIORS ARE RUMORED TO BE NEARLY THE EQUAL OF MINE.

SEND A HAWK BACK TO KING JAROL.

TELL HIM I'M DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH HIS LOST DAUGHTER AND HAVE TURNED OUT MY ENTIRE NATION TO RETRIEVE HER.

SUMMON THE HOSTS.

CALL OUT THE SHEIKS OF AHNZA, HARBEK, AND BENU YAM, AND ALL OF THEIR VASSALS.

TONIGHT WE RIDE FOR THE *LANDS OF FIRE!*

*THE EVEN MORE THRILLING SAGA--*

--OF PARATH IN THE SKY, AND HIS FATHER KING HOZ.

INTERESTING PHRASING, DON'T YOU THINK, FATHER?

THE MESSAGE IMPLIES HEAVILY THE ONE WHO RESCUES HER GETS TO MARRY HER, BUT DOESN'T OUTRIGHT PROMISE IT.

OF COURSE NOT. JUST IN CASE THE SAVIOR HERO DOESN'T QUITE PROVE SUITABLE AS AN ALLY.

SHE'D TRULY BE A PRIZE, THOUGH.

OF COURSE WHAT SNEAKY KING JAROL REALLY SEEKS IS AN ALLIANCE THAT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO READ MY BOOK.

YOUR... BOOK, SON?

I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT. I'VE BEEN WRITING A MULTI-VOLUME TREATISE ON MILITARY TACTICS.

I CALL IT "THE SECRETS OF PERFECT TACTICS, PART ONE: HOW TO WIN EVERY BATTLE".

HERE, LOOK.

IS THIS A COOKBOOK? I SEE MOSTLY RECIPES.

OF COURSE. HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD AN ARMY LIVES ON ITS STOMACH?

FEED A SOLDIER WELL AND HE'LL FIGHT FOR YOU. THAT'S THE SECRET.

EVEN MORE HEROES ANSWER THE CALL TO ADVENTURE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO FIND THE TEEGRA WOMAN AND SAVE HER.

DIDN'T YOU SEE THE MESSAGE?

I DID. I ALSO SAW HOW BIG IT WAS WRITTEN.

THE PEOPLE OF FIREKEEP ARE GIANTS COMPARED TO US.

OR, ALTERNATELY, WE'RE A TINY PEOPLE COMPARED TO THEM.

WE'RE BRAVE BUT WEE, SON.

UHM... SURE...YES... BUT...

EVEN IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVES HER, WHICH WILL BE QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, WHAT THEN?

DO YOU ENVISION A WEDDING?

IF SO, DESCRIBE TO ME THE MECHANICS OF THE WEDDING NIGHT.

YOU MAY HAVE A POINT, DAD.

CLIMB DOWN FROM THERE AND GO VISIT MISS MERRYBLOSSOM. REMEMBER HOW YOU'VE BEEN SWEETHEARTS SINCE HATCHING.

YES, THIS IS A WORLD WHERE TRUE LOVE AND HEROIC BRAVERY OFT GO HAND IN HAND.

RUN, SHAITAN, RUN!

I THOUGHT WE'D MANAGED TO *GET AWAY!*

*HIDE* FROM IT!

*SHAITAN!*

*NO!*

DON'T YOU DARE *SACRIFICE YOURSELF* FOR ME!

*SHAITAN!*

*HELP!*

*ANYONE!*

RRRR

BIG FELLA!

ALLIGHH!

OOF!

SAVAGE BEAST!

I'LL KILL YOU!

TAKE THAT!

THERE!

THAT OUGHT TO--

YOU SAVED ME!

YOU HELPED.

THAT WAS A BRAVE THING YOU DID, STEPPING IN TO SLICE THE JELLY OF ITS EYE OPEN WITH SUCH A TINY KNIFE.

AND YOUR PANTHER FRIEND...

HE IS FRIENDLY, RIGHT?

WON'T TRY TO EAT ME?

NO, I WON'T LET HIM.

NOT THAT THE MIGHTIEST, BRAVEST WARRIOR IN ALL THE COUNTLESS KINGDOMS WOULD NEED TO WORRY HIMSELF ABOUT A SINGLE FRISKY KITTY CAT.

NOW THEN--WHO DO I OWE MY LIFE TO?

I'M CALLED SKORPEA, FIRST SON OF KOPPUL, THE DUKE OF HARGOT KRULL.

I'VE GLADLY JOINED THE RANKS OF HEROES OF GREAT RENOWN TO FIND YOU AND DELIVER YOU SAFELY HOME.

FORTUNE FAVORED ME MOST OF ALL IN LETTING ME BE THE FIRST TO FIND YOU.

FIRST TO WIN YOUR LOVE AND YOUR HAND, IF YOU'LL HAVE ME.

I...I'M... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

SAY YOU'LL BE MINE AND WE'LL UNITE OUR HOUSES TO BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL NATION THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

YOU'VE CERTAINLY EARNED A HERO'S KISS.

LET'S START THERE, AND...

WAIT--!

NOT YET--!

OH.

I KNOW I'M NOT THE MOST HANDSOME MAN, BUT THE HONOR OF MY HOUSE IS UNBLEMISHED FOR SIXTEEN GENERATIONS.

MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK.

# CHAPTER THREE: IN WHICH WE WITNESS A HOMECOMING, AND ONE OF ITS EFFECTS.

THREE AWKWARD DAYS LATER...

YES, FATHER, I'VE RETURNED.

AND I'M FINE, DESPITE WHAT A FRIGHT I MUST LOOK.

A LITTLE MORE HUMBLED, I HOPE, THAN WHEN YOU RAN OFF.

MAYBE A BIT.

BUT NO LESS DETERMINED NOT TO BE SOLD OFF FOR POLITICS.

YES, WE'VE STARKLY REALIZED YOU AREN'T YET READY--

--TO SURRENDER A CHILD'S PRIVILEGES AND TAKE UP A MATURE NOBLE-WOMAN'S DUTIES.

WAIT.

I WOULDN'T CHARACTERIZE THIS AS--

I'M *NOT* A *SPOILED BRAT!*

NO MATTER.

WE'VE ALREADY HAD TO MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

YOUR BROTHER TARO WILL CEMENT THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR HOUSE AND THE HOUSE OF OCARTU-- HOME OF THE FEARSOME SAND DEMONS.

A FORMAL TREATY OF BETROTHAL HAS BEEN FINALIZED.

AT THE END OF THE WAR HE'LL MARRY STEL, THE SISTER OF PRINCE REYO.

WE'RE ALL WELL PLEASED.

CONGRATULATIONS, PRINCE TARO.

I HEAR SHE'S LOVELY.

I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU BUT COULDN'T FIND THE WORDS.

AND WHAT WITH THE DISTRACTIONS OF SEARCHING FOR TEEGRA...

NO NEED TO EXPLAIN A THING.

WHAT'S BEST FOR THE REALM IS BEST FOR ALL WITHIN IT.

WHAT WE TRIED TO--

WHAT WE HOPED FOR WAS JUST A FANTASY.

A SILLY DREAM WE SHARED, BEFORE EACH OF US HAD TO WAKE AND RESUME OUR ADULT LIVES.

OH, LIENE, DON'T LOOK SO SAD. I'M FINE, AS YOU CAN SEE.

DID YOU MISS ME TERRIBLY? OF COURSE YOU DID. IT SHOWS.

COME ALONG AND I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME.

THE END

## NEXT ISSUE: FIRE & ICE #3

Having survived his duel with Otwa, Darkwolf must now deal with a mysterious force that seems determined to stop him in his tracks. Meanwhile, Nekron manipulates Juliana's grief, and a new wave of horrors are unleashed on an unprepared world - forcing Jarol, the King of Fire Keep, to respond. Is hope still visible through the cracks of the slowly expanding ice? Find out in Fire and Ice #3 as acclaimed comics creators BILL WILLINGHAM (Fables, Legenderry) and LEONARDO MANCO (Hellstorm: Prince of Lies, Blaze of Glory) delve ever deeper into the world of the acclaimed film!

# THE SHE-DEVIL WITH A SWORD MEETS THE COMICS MASTER OF THE DEAD — STEVE NILES (30 DAYS OF NIGHT)

**Steve, you've worked with us at Dynamite in the past on some *Army of Darkness* tales and even a *Vampirella* story. But you've never actually taken on Red Sonja before. The character is celebrating 50 years in comics right now; what drew you to her and why do you think she's resonated with readers so much through the years?**

She's such a classic character, all the way back to her origins written by Robert E. Howard in the 1930s. She was ahead of her time, an incredible warrior, pretty much unkillable and always ready to fight. In that way, she's not unlike one of my most well-known characters, Cal McDonald, so writing a story for her was a blast.

**What can you tell us about the title of the series here, "Empire of the Damned"? Where does that fit into the story you're telling?**

This series begins with an ancient story, and the setup for how Red Sonja finds herself on a new quest. There is a rumor of a lost valley where a war occurred. Both sides died at the hands of a warlock who used everybody to gain riches. Now Red Sonja is looking for the lost valley, but there are all sorts of obstacles in her way.

**Your work in comics is extensive — you've tackled characters like Batman and Spawn as well as your own creations, including gems like *Criminal Macabre, Simon Dark,* and of course your iconic graphic novel *30 Days of Night*. Many of your stories focus on elements of horror, and classic monsters like vampires and zombies. You've also frequently collaborated with artists on a similar wavelength, like Bernie Wrightson, Ben Templesmith, and Kelley Jones. What is it that so often draws you in those directions, and how might that be interwoven with the Red Sonja story you're telling now?**

I grew up with classic monsters in movies — Frankenstein, the Wolfman, all the way to Night of the Living Dead. Bernie Wrightson's art was a huge influence on me, and all of that really steered me towards writing horror in comics. When I was approached about writing Red Sonja, I made sure it was okay to bring in some violence and great monsters for her to fight.

**The Hyrkanian Heroine is set to be joined by a few companions on her latest quest. Can you tell fans about some of the supporting characters they'll be meeting? (Without spoiling who might live or die by the end, of course!)**

She meets a myriad of characters on her travels in this series, from a powerful young witch named Luna to an incredibly large and helpful barbarian, Morgo, as well as an old man she must chaperone as he searches for his childhood home in order to die in peace. We don't ever know who is who all the time, which made it a blast to play around with.

**There are a bunch of powerhouse creators working on this book alongside you, too. How has the collaboration been with artist Alessandro Amoruso, as you're seeing his pages start to roll in?**

His work is incredible so far, his pages are amazing. His battle scenes are epic, and he illustrates Red Sonja perfectly. He adds all kinds of little details that I love. Every scene just comes alive.


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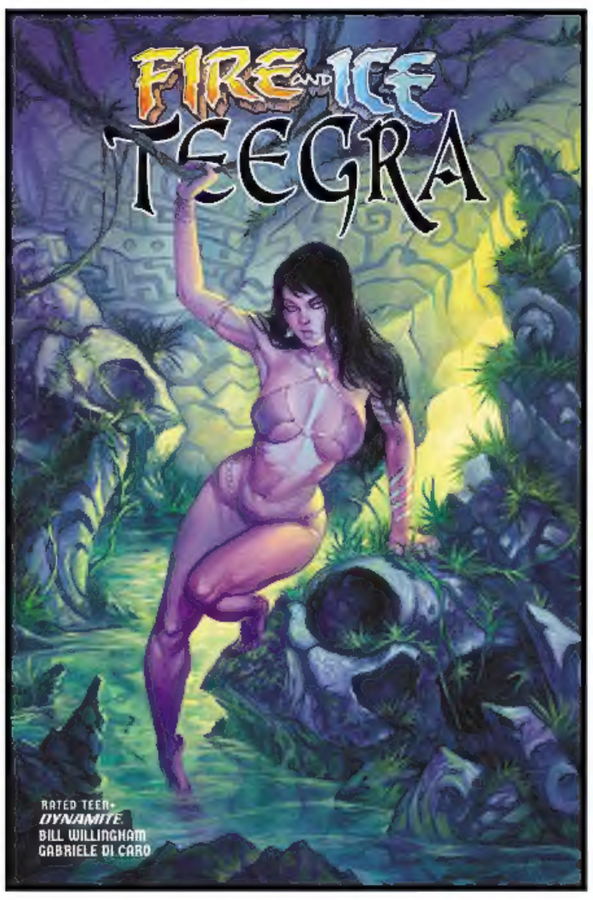


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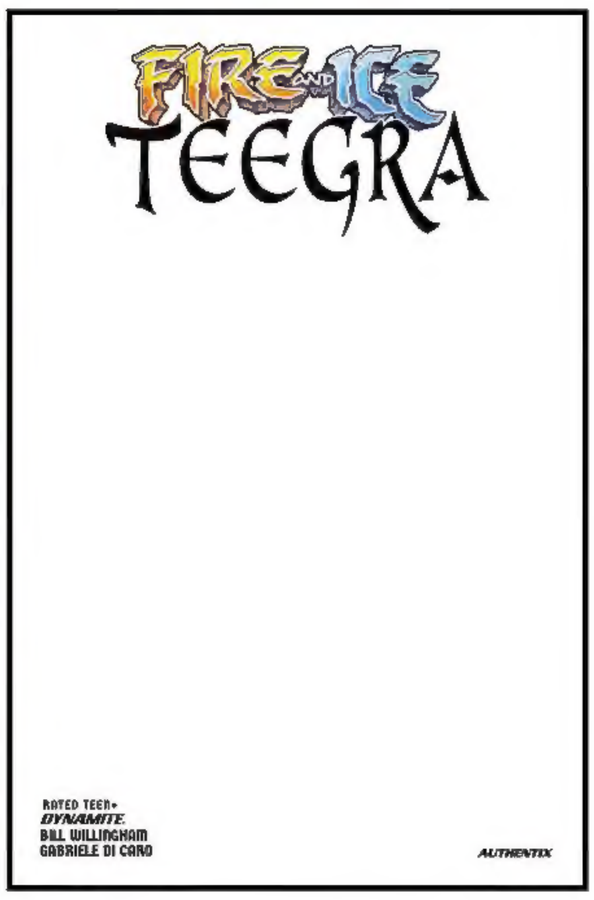


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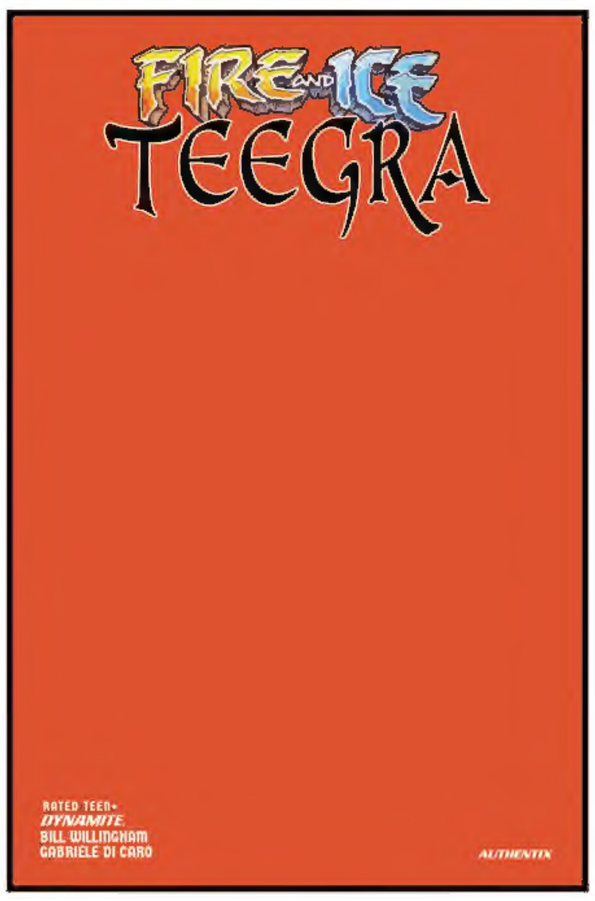


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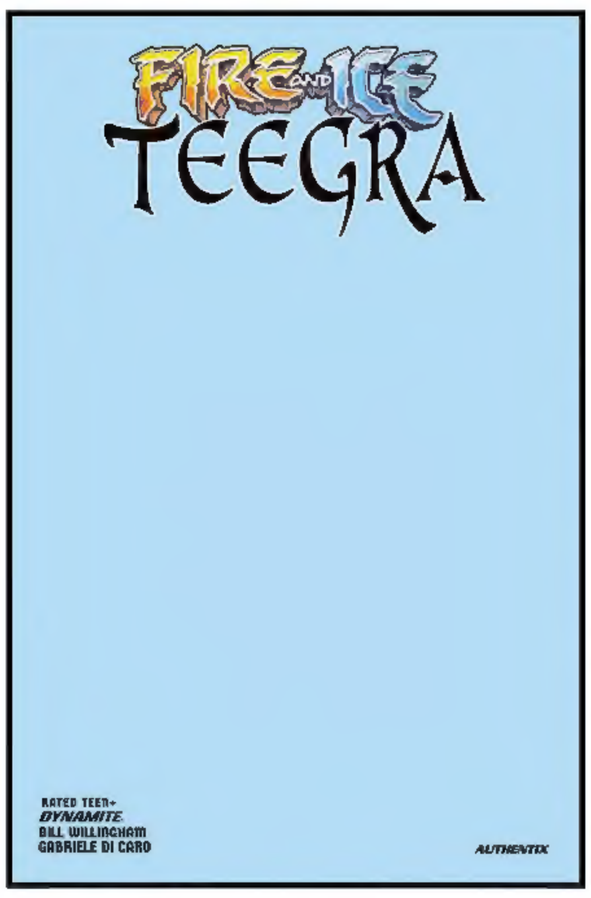


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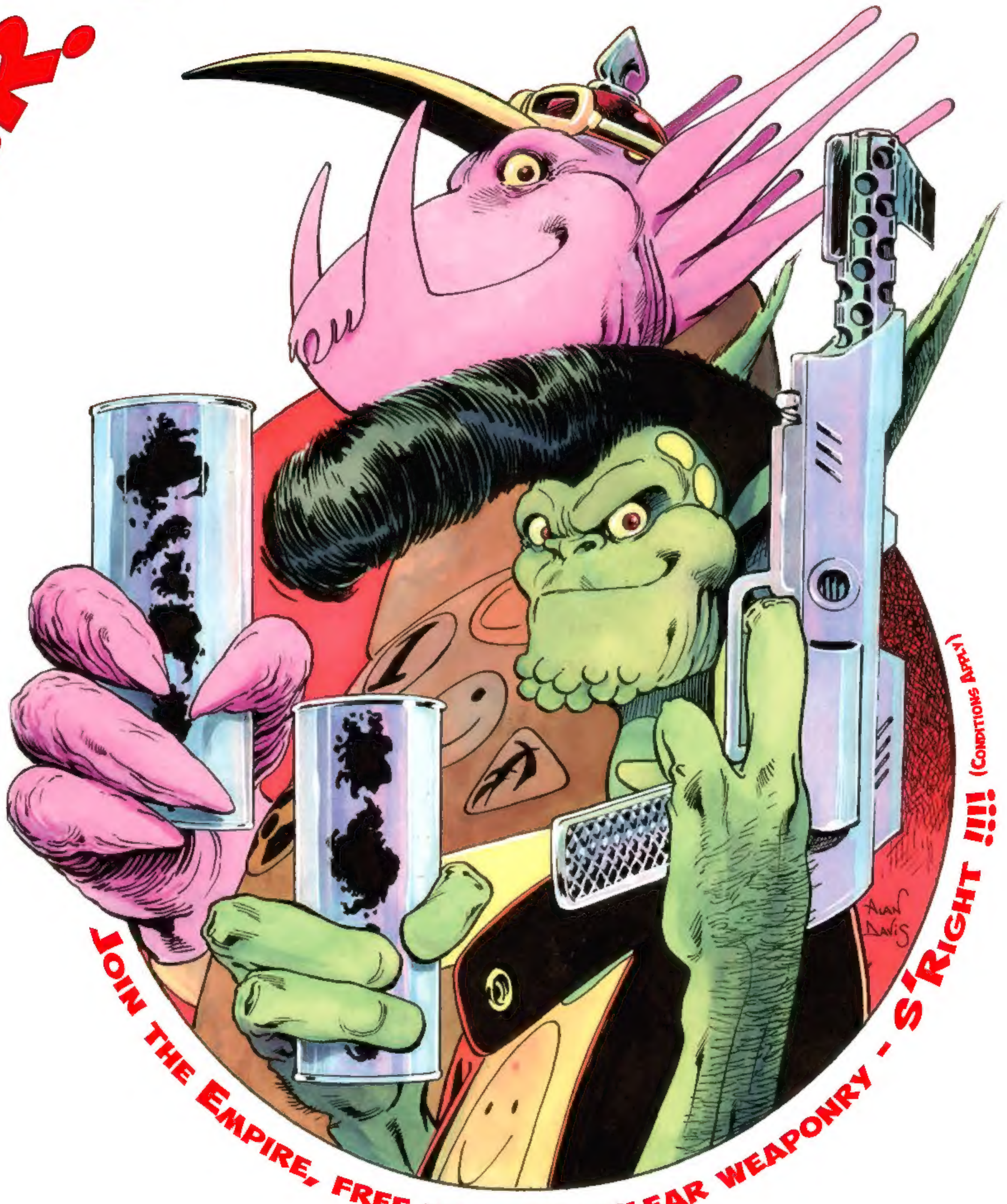


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